



Mercury | Press Kit

Logline: Mercury is about a short car trip where everything changes.

Synopsis of project: The short film is called Mercury, it's 15 minutes long, it is well observed and insightful, moving and funny at the same time. It's about two girls in crisis in a car. It's a portrait of a friendship between two young women in their early 20s. One is pregnant and they are on their way to the hospital where she will give birth to the baby and then give it away. The film is the short journey from home to the hospital when it all sinks in, and we see the massive impact it's about to have on all their lives.

Long Synopsis (300 words)

Mercury is a raw fast-paced comedy drama. It opens a window into the lives of Al (21) and Bambi (22), two best friends who are embroiled in a symbiotic friendship. Taking place over the short journey to the hospital where Al's scheduled C-section will take place, it focuses on this small yet pivotal moment in their lives and that of Al's as of yet unborn child.

Set within the confines of the car, they cannot escape each other and the particular and complex relationship between the awkward Bambi and the quick-witted and irresponsible AI, is explored. During this 10 minute journey, AI and Bambi say very little but reveal a lot. AI is jokey and irresponsible. Bambi has a strong sense of duty. Fatalism and rebellion collide during their journey. We see a window into a singular friendship as AI and Bambi struggle not to be defined by their choices and to establish their identities and trajectories as women of the twenty first century.

The film explores serious issues such as pregnancy, motherhood and what it is to be a responsible adult are channelled through humour and comedic situations. Their raw, crude banter, as well as the absurd situations they get themselves into, are unapologetic and the platonic yet intense and important kind of love between best- friends, is studied. How far will Bambi go to support her friend at this difficult time? Would AI do the same for Bambi? I want to play with all the fun happening on the outside, and the drama almost completely developing on the inside.



MERCURY is just the beginning of a longer journey, a bigger adventure. Kyla and Gorana have a great feature idea. It's called **THE COCKATOO INN**, a Road Trip movie with estranged best friends AL and BAMBI, which was submitted and long-listed for the **Sundance Script Lab** and is currently in advanced development. It's about female friendship and thwarted motherhood, facing up to choices made earlier in life and growing up. We're making **MERCURY**, set six years earlier, to help cement the concept and further fuel Kyla and Gorana's exciting careers.

The Team

KYLA | DIRECTOR



OHNA | PRODUCER



GORANA | WRITER



Kyla Simone Bruce, award winning Director. She graduated with an MA with Distinction from The London Film School in 2013, with her film THE INTERPRETER, which was awarded 'Best Student Short' presented by SHOOTING PEOPLE, as well as receiving a special mention for 'Best Woman Director' at the London Short Film Festival and has been long-listed for the BAFTA Short Film Award in 2015. Her Documentary SILVER RAILS (following her father, the late Jack Bruce, and collaborators recording his final album in Abbey Road Studios) has been licensed by the BBC.

Her feature length international collaboration UNDOCUMENT (a series of character driven dramas exploring the complex theme of illegal immigration; set in Iran, Greece and England) premiered at the East End Film Festival, 2016 and was long-listed for two BIFAs, for Best Debut Director and Most Promising Newcomer, as well as being nominated and winning many other international awards.

Gorana Jovanovic, who is hard at work on the script from her home in Serbia. She is a graduate of the University of Westminster. Her graduation film KING FOR A DAY has been nominated for a student award by the Royal Television Society. Her short experimental film SMOKE premiered at 2015 DokuFest. In 2015, she won the Best Pitch award at the European Short Pitch forum in Luxembourg with her short fiction project REQUIEM FOR LAIKA, which is currently in pre production.

Ohna Falby, has an outstanding track record in short films - check out the Life to Live Films website to discover more about the talent she collaborates with, the films and awards. She is known for discovering distinctive emerging talent, through insightful dedicated development work. In 2011 she founded Life to Live Films, to produce her widely diverse slate of independent films.

PRODUCTION STILLS

